



Consumer Information

About Medical Doctors Physician Assistants Respiratory Therapists

HOW TO CONTACT THE BOARD

Office Location:

1105 Terminal Way, Suite 301
Reno, NV 89502-2144

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 7238
Reno, NV 89510-7238

Telephone: (775) 688-2559

Toll-Free: (888) 890-8210 (within Nevada)

Fax: (775) 688-2321

Website: www.medboard.nv.gov

E-mail: nsbme@medboard.nv.gov



Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

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THE BOARD

The Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) is the state agency that licenses and regulates Nevada medical doctors (physicians), physician assistants and practitioners of respiratory care. Collectively, they are referred to as "licensees." The Board is comprised of nine members appointed by the Governor—six physicians actively practicing in Nevada and three members from the public.

At its quarterly meetings, the Board considers and acts on individual license applications, committee reports and policy issues affecting the practice of medicine. Meetings also include adjudications of disciplinary actions filed by the Board's investigative committees. Though some Board business is confidential under the law, Board meetings are otherwise open to the public. The Board's meeting schedule may be obtained from the website (www.medboard.nv.gov).

No tax dollars are used to support the Board. Licensing and registration fees charged to practitioners regulated by the Board provide the bulk of its revenue. Audits of the Board are conducted annually and reported to the Legislative Counsel Bureau of the Nevada State Legislature and to its licensees.

THE BOARD'S MISSION

The practice of medicine is a *privilege* granted by the state. The Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners licenses, monitors, disciplines, educates and, when appropriate, rehabilitates its licensees to assure their fitness and competence to serve the people of Nevada.

SERVICES THE BOARD PROVIDES

The Board can give you information on the background and status of medical doctors, physician assistants and practitioners of respiratory care licensed in Nevada. The Board can tell you how many years a licensee has practiced in Nevada; provide you with a licensee's education, training and malpractice history; and tell you whether the Board has taken disciplinary action against his or her license.

You can obtain this information by calling the office at (775) 688-2559 in the Reno/Sparks/Carson City area or (888) 890-8210 toll-free within the state, and a customer-service representative will provide you with the information over the phone. You can also visit the Board's website (www.medboard.nv.gov), where you can view the profiles of the Board's licensees.

Press releases are issued following all Board meetings and after any disciplinary action is taken. All disciplinary actions are reported in the Board's newsletters and the website.

A full roster of the Board's licensees is available in hard copy, on computer disk or via e-mail, for a fee.

Board representatives are happy to appear before medical organizations, students, and public groups, such as service clubs, upon request.

WEBSITE

The Board's website (www.medboard.nv.gov) contains the following information on the Board and the Board's licensees: meeting agendas and minutes, newsletters, the Board's most recent annual report and financial statements, and other helpful information, as well as forms to be downloaded to assist licensees and the public.

DOES A DOCTOR HAVE TO RELEASE MEDICAL RECORDS TO A PATIENT?

Yes. A doctor does have to make a patient's records available to the patient or to the patient's representative with the patient's written authorization. The doctor may charge up to 60 cents per page for photocopies of the records, and a reasonable fee for copies of x-rays and other health care records produced by similar processes.

THE MEDICAL PRACTICE ACT

The Medical Practice Act, Chapter 630 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (and Chapter 630 of the Nevada Administrative Code) is a law created by the Nevada State Legislature to license and regulate Nevada physicians, physician assistants and practitioners of respiratory care.

THE ADJUDICATION PROCESS

Complaints against licensees of the Board are received from several sources, including patients, other members of the public, hospitals, other health care institutions and medical malpractice insurers. The Board may also initiate a complaint on its own if it becomes aware of potential unprofessional conduct.

CONDUCT THAT MAY WARRANT DISCIPLINE OF A LICENSEE

The following list includes *but is not limited to* acts that constitute grounds for initiating disciplinary action or denying licensure:

- 1. Conviction of a felony relating to the practice of medicine or the ability to practice medicine, or certain other felonies as listed in NRS 630.301(11);
- 2. Disciplinary action taken against a licensee to practice medicine in another state;
- 3. Malpractice, such as failing to use a well-known and effective treatment, to the patient’s detriment; or doing something in the course of treating a patient that, although not extremely careless, is inappropriate for the patient’s condition;
- 4. Sexual misconduct with a patient;
- 5. Disruptive behavior that interferes with patient care or has an adverse impact on the quality of care rendered to a patient;
- 6. Billing for services not rendered (fraud);
- 7. Engaging in conduct that brings the medical profession into disrepute;
- 8. Advertising the practice of medicine in a false, deceptive or misleading manner;
- 9. Abandonment of a patient;
- 10. Inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety because of illness; a mental or physical condition; or the use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics or any other such substance.

While some types of behavior, such as poor bedside manner, are not conducive to a good doctor-patient relationship, they are not violations of the Medical Practice Act.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

When the Board receives a complaint, it is reviewed to determine whether the Board has jurisdiction over the matter. If it is determined that the Board has jurisdiction, the facts of the complaint are thoroughly analyzed by staff and medical reviewers to determine if there has been a violation of the Medical Practice Act.

If a violation is confirmed, the Board may file formal charges against the licensee, and the licensee will be afforded a public hearing. The charges filed by the Board and the formal decision of the Board after the hearing are public record. Copies of these documents are available to the public upon request, for a fee.

If the charges are proved, the Board may suspend or revoke the license or place the licensee on probation. The Board can also order psychiatric treatment, additional education, passage of a competency examination or other discipline provided by the Medical Practice Act. If the licensee has a problem with drugs or alcohol, the Board can require the licensee to participate in treatment and keep him or her from practicing until the problem is resolved.

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

To file a complaint, you can download or print the complaint form from the Board’s website (www.medboard.nv.gov) under the “Consumer Forms” section. Or call the Board office at (775) 688-2559 in the Reno/Sparks/Carson City area or (888) 890-8210 toll-free within the state; and press 1 to reach the Investigations Division of the Board, which will mail you a complaint form.

By law, the Board cannot reveal whether a complaint has been made against a licensee unless the complaint has resulted in formal charges.

WHAT THE BOARD DOES NOT DO

The Board cannot tell you what insurance plans a specific physician accepts, whether the physician is accepting new patients, or recommend or refer you to a specific physician. Local and national organizations are a good source for finding physicians who practice certain specialties in your area. See the “Referral Organizations” below.

The Board also has no legal authority over the fees charged by a physician (unless it involves fraud) and cannot assist with getting fees reduced or refunded. The Office of the Governor Consumer Health Assistance Program ((702) 486-3587 in the Las Vegas area or (888) 333-1597 toll-free from within the state of Nevada) may be able to assist with fee disputes.

REFERRAL ORGANIZATIONS

Nevada State Medical Association (NSMA)
(775) 825-6788 (Reno)
Clark County Medical Society (CCMS)
(702) 739-9989 (Las Vegas)
Washoe County Medical Society (WCMS)
(775) 825-0278 (Reno)
American Medical Association (AMA)
(800) 621-8335 (toll free)
Bureau of Licensure and Certification
Nevada State Division of Health (for hospitals)
(775) 687-4475
(800) 225-3414 (toll-free)
Nevada Hospital Association
(775) 827-0184

THE BOARD DOES NOT REGULATE:

Chiropractors	Optometrists
Clinics	Osteopaths
Dentists	Pharmacists
Family counselors	Physical therapists
Homeopaths	Podiatrists
Hospitals	Psychologists
Laboratories	Social workers
Laboratory technicians	Speech pathologists
Marriage counselors	Veterinarians
Nurses	X-ray technicians
Nursing homes	
or	
Doctor’s front office (clerical) staff	
Emergency medical technicians	
Medical insurance companies	
Oriental medicine occupations	

NEVADA STATE AGENCIES THAT REGULATE OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology, (775) 857-3500
Board of Chiropractic Examiners, (775) 688-1919
Board of Dental Examiners, (702) 486-7044
Board of Homeopathic Examiners, (702) 451-3332
Board of Marriage and Family Therapy, (702) 486-7388
Board of Nursing, (775) 688-2620
Board of Optometry, (775) 883-8367
Board of Oriental Medicine, (702) 837-8921
Board of Osteopathic Medicine, (702) 732-2147
Board of Pharmacy, (775) 850-1440
Board of Physical Therapy, (702) 876-5535
Board of Podiatry, (775) 789-2605
Board of Psychological Examiners, (775) 688-1268
Board for Social Workers, (775) 688-2555
Board of Veterinary Examiners, (775) 688-1788

For agencies not listed above, call Nevada State Library Research Assistance at (775) 684-3360 or (800) 922-2880 toll-free within the state of Nevada.

Your insurance plan may also list which doctors in your area are covered by your insurance.